

- I) V1-5 INTRO: For **we know** that if our earthly house this tent is destroyed we have a building
Paul just wrote of some of the struggles that he endured for the Gospel's sake
HE HAD WRITTEN
- II) 4:16 Our **outward** (material) **bodies** are **perishing** (**changing for the worse**)
Paul's **body** wasted away under his trials, being often threatened **with death**
- III) In spite of this, his **inward man** was being renewed day by day
The **inward**, unseen person can grow strong and be renewed daily by the Spirit
Paul was gaining spiritual strength, purity of spirit, and comfort daily
- IV) Part of the way that his **inward man** was renewed came through his afflictions
Paul's mind and faith grew, and God's truth became much clearer
IN OTHER WORDS
- V) The afflictions he endured developed his **spiritual depth**
- VI) In 4:17 Paul went on to contrast **the momentary** with the eternal
By doing this he contrasted what he called **light weight** with the **truly weighty**
HIS POINT
- VII) Christian suffering, no matter how **intense** or **lengthy**, occurs **only in this life**
These afflictions **remove our grip** from the world, and make us long for Jesus
- VIII) 4:18 we do not look at the things, which are seen, but at the things which are not
Our vision is not locked on to the **present conditions**, but on eternity
Our goal goes beyond what we now see, but is fixed on heaven, and **eternity**
HE CONTINUES HIS THOUGHT
- IX) V1 For we know **that if our earthly house** this tent is destroyed we have a building
Paul now explains what has fueled his faith and hope for the future
He identifies what has made him bold and courageous in the face of troubles
- X) What has fueled his life and produced in him such a firm devotion to Jesus
What has given him the calmness to endure and strength to go through pain
HE TELLS US
- XI) V1 We know **that if our earthly house** this tent is destroyed, we have a building
We know: We are confident about our future because of His work on our behalf
- XII) We know if our earthly house, **this tent** is destroyed we have a building from God
His thought: Though his body is perishing, he has something waiting for him

- I) His body may be perishing, but God has prepared something better for him
He will receive a body that will never suffer death or pain **again**
He has a glorified, resurrection body, one made suitable for heaven
DEVELOP
- II) It is interesting how he said **If** our earthly house is destroyed
It seems Paul once again made it clear that he would be **raptured** in his lifetime
It is possible he would die, but not necessarily **inevitable**
JESUS COULD RAPTURE HIM
- III) The expectation of **the rapture** drove him to live **in preparation** of being with Jesus
The rapture is a way of describing how Jesus will take the church to be with Him
1 Th 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then **we who are alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord
- IV) Paul and other NT writers expected Jesus' return to be imminent
Because this is true, we are to be prepared to see Him at any moment
Ro 13:12 The night is far spent, **the day is at hand**
1 Co 7:29 But this I say brethren, **the time is short**
Phil 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. **The Lord is at hand.**
Jas 5:8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.**
Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming quickly.**"
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
- V) This is something that he had already taught the Corinthians in his first letter
1 Co 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, **in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- VI) Paul knew that he was receiving a resurrection body
This meant he wasn't concerned about eternity though **his body** was wasting away
One day he would be **resurrected** and have a transformed body
1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, **we will be like Him**, for we will see Him as He is.

- I) He uses the word **tent** as a picture of the body as the dwelling place of our soul
This was a common image during his day
2 Pe 1:13-14 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am **in this tent**, to stir you up by reminding you knowing that shortly I **must put off my tent**, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.
- II) The expectation of being with Jesus is what fueled Paul to serve faithfully
Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works
- III) V1 Even if our earthly house this tent is destroyed (torn down; dismantled)
This reveals the source of his peace and ability to endure afflictions
He looks past what is presently happening, fixing his eyes on future blessings
THOUGHT
- IV) As a tentmaker, Paul would make shelters
He valued the tents that would shelter temporary dwellers
- V) These tents that housed temporary dwellers would be taken down
God is preparing a permanent dwelling place: a house that won't be taken down
Our earthly bodies are temporary, but our glorified body **will be permanent**
- VI) V2-3 For in this **we groan earnestly** desiring to be clothed with our habitation
In this body we live a life filled with **afflictions**, **infirmities**, **injuries**, and **fatigue**
- VII) Much of this is understood by those who are aging (silver or seasoned saints)
Our bodies are growing older, and we deal with things we didn't expect
Men live to 76, women to 83
INTERESTINGLY
- VIII) Some people have a difficult time embracing the reality of aging
They still consider themselves **cool** and **young**
- IX) Some 60's/70's music groups became aware of this and re-released their songs
They changed the titles and the lyrics to accommodate their aging audience

I) Some examples of these remakes

The Who: Talkin' 'Bout My **Medication**

Herman's Hermits: Mrs. Brown You've Got a **Lovely Walker**

The Bee Gees: How Can You Mend a **Broken Hip**

Creedence Clearwater Revival: **Bad Prune** Rising

Roberta Flack: The First Time **Ever I Forgot** Your Face

Carly Simon: You're So **Varicose Vein**

The Temptations: Papa Got a **Kidney Stone**

Johnny Nash: I **Can't See** Clearly Now

ABBA: Denture Queen

Leo Sayer: You Make Me Feel **Like Napping**

The Commodores: Once, Twice, **Three Trips to the Bathroom**

The Beatles: I Get By with a Little Help **From Depends**

WE ARE AGING, BUT ALSO LONGING TO BE WITH JESUS

II) This increases our longing to be removed from here to be with Him

Phil. 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven. And we **eagerly await** a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

HABITATION FROM HEAVEN

III) V3 if indeed having been clothed we shall not be found naked

When resurrected, we will have the appropriate garment: **resurrection body**

IV) V4 We who are in this tent **groan** (express longing) being burdened not because

We do not want to **just die**, longing to escape afflictions and sorrows

We groan because we want to be **in glory with Him**, with His abundance

Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence** is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

THE FACT IS

V) We can get to the point where we just want to throw in the towel

At one point, even Job simply desired to die and **be done with it**

Job 6:8-9 Oh that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing **that I long for!** That it would please God **to crush me**, that He would loose His hand and cut me off!

KEY

VI) Paul is saying that we do not simply want to die, but we long **to be with Him**

VII) V5 Now He who has **prepared us for this** very thing is God, who also has given us

We have been prepared to be clothed, not in weakness and death, but in life

I) Everything that led up to this: Jesus' death, our redemption, our being born again, His gifts and the grace we have received **is working to this end**: Eternal life with Jesus

HOW CAN HE BE SURE

II) V5 This is not something Paul is wishing for: it is something **guaranteed** by God
He has given us the Spirit **as a guarantee**

Guarantee: Money given as a down payment that the full amount will be paid

III) The Spirit is the pledge of the heavenly inheritance that is completely received when we are glorified in heaven

IV) It is God's guarantee that we are redeemed and have a future with Him

2 Co 1:22 (God) also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee

Eph 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

V) The work of the Spirit guarantees our hope of **a heavenly body**, suitable for heaven
Because **He is faithful**, we will not fail to be clothed with a new, resurrection body
This is **future glory**, when we are **with Him** and He removes our fear of death

VI) V6 Therefore we are **always confident** knowing that while we are at home in the
The Spirit gives us internal confidence: **We are assured in Christ, constantly**
This is one good reason to seek the Lord and to walk in His Spirit

VII) When we live in fear, we are quenching the work of the Holy Spirit
This is because living in uncertainty produces an anxiety filled life
Fear motivated anxiety produces internal torment

VIII) The remedy for this is walking in the Spirit and clinging to God's promises
We can have confidence because God has promised us and guarantees it

IX) Because this is true, we do not need to live in fear of judgment any longer
This is because fear and love cannot co-exist

X) Because we have been **saved**, we can have confidence on the day of judgment
We have the Spirit, and He has given us a revelation of God's love in salvation

- I) This is a perfect love, and this **perfect love** drives out fear (of judgment)
1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love **casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love
- II) Satan uses fear to keep people in bondage
He inspires us to fear losing possessions, comforts, reputations, even our lives
- III) Jesus came to free us from this fear, especially of fear of death and final judgment
Heb 2:14-15 Now since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by **their fear of death**.
- IV) Satan uses fear, but God draws with love, mercy, and grace
- V) Fear and love don't co-exist: If there is a concern *for* final judgment, love is absent
A Christian who fears final judgment reveals a concern for **personal judgment**, which reveals an imperfect understanding of salvation
- VI) **Perfect love** literally **drives fear out** so that fear does not exist in real love
Perfect love is a love that delivers us from concern for our future
It produces mature confidence in God and His promise of salvation
- VII) It is the result of genuine conversion and is founded on the work of His Spirit
Ro 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.
Ro 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**
- NOTICE**
- VIII) V6 He says knowing that while we are **at home** in the body we are **absent**
At home means occupying our body: dwelling here in a temporary condition
- IX) To be here, even temporarily is to be absent from the actual presence of the Lord
Absent: While he is on earth he is actually *away from his real home or country*
It speaks of his longing to be with the Lord and to leave this **temporary place**
Phil 1:21-23 For to me to live **is** Christ and **to die** is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, **having a desire to depart** and be with Christ, which is far better

- I) V7 For we **walk by faith**, not by sight (by what we see)
We walk in faith, trusting in God's promises and informed internally by His Spirit
This internal drive of faith has produced a great confidence that God is with us
- II) The Spirit gives us **confidence** that God redeemed us, and heaven is our home
In matters of faith, seeing is not believing: **Believing is seeing**
- III) In the resurrection of Lazarus Jesus had said **Lazarus would rise again**
Jesus had raised others from the dead: The widow of Nain's son (Lu 7:11-17) and Jairus' daughter (Lu 8:42)
He was clearly stating that Lazarus **would also rise**
- IV) When Jesus came to Lazarus' tomb, He commanded the stone to be removed
Martha immediately told Jesus the stench would be terrible
Jn 11:40 Jesus said to her Did I not say to you that **if you would believe** you **would see** the glory of God?
APPLICATION
- V) Though things are **yet to be seen**, we live as those **who are already seeing them**
Heb 11:1 What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things **we cannot yet see**.
- VI) For the Christian, it is a confidence that is rooted in their relationship with God
It is built on certainty that God tells the truth, and does not lie
- VII) We are confident that the moment we close our eyes here, **we are with Him**
There is no waiting place: we go directly to be with the Lord
This strengthens us to endure whatever it is that we go through
- VIII) Paul had just listed things he suffered, but this made heaven more glorious
Nothing on earth could take his eyes off what awaited him in heaven
Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ
- IX) V9 Therefore we make it **our aim** whether present or absent to be pleasing to Him
Our aim: Our earnest ambition; that which we strive for; our zealous pursuit
The thought of seeing Jesus spurred Paul to live a life well pleasing to Him

- I) This was his ambition and purpose; this is what he expended his energy on
Ps 27:4 **One thing** I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.
- II) He longed to be *with* the Lord because he loved Him, not just to escape
He lived in anticipation of this and it provoked him to live for the Lord every day
- III) He knew that this life was not all that there is
He was just **passing through** as a pilgrim
1 Pe 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul
- IV) V10 For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ **that each one** may **Appear**: To be made fully manifest; to be seen clearly; made completely visible
THIS IS DEEP
- V) **All** will stand before the judgment seat, and **everything** shall be clearly seen
Heb 9:27
- VI) The hidden sins and motives will be clearly revealed when Jesus judges
Ps 90:8 You have set our iniquities (depravities) before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Eccl 12:14 For God will bring **every deed** into judgment, along **with every hidden thing**, whether good or evil.
Ro 2:16 this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge **everyone's secret life**.
- VII) **On that day** all that was secret, for good or for evil, will be revealed
1 Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is **hidden in darkness** and **will expose the motives** of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.
NOTICE
- VIII) We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
The unsaved appear before the judgment seat and receive just punishment
The saved will receive rewards for faithful service
- IX) This speaks of **rewards** that are received or lost depending on service to the Lord

I) **WE KNOW THIS**

Because Christians are saved by grace, we will not come into final judgment

Jn 5:24 I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

II) Salvation is **a gift**, but there are **rewards** for faithfulness in the Christian life
Receiving rewards from the Lord should be a great motivator for service to Him

III) There are proper rewards that believers desire to receive
We serve out of thankfulness but by His grace, we also receive reward
Rev 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward is with Me**, to render to every man **according to what he has done**

IV) The judgment seat is called the Bema seat of Christ
The word Bema is taken from the Isthmian games, which were like the Olympics

V) The contestants competed for prizes under the close watch of officials
If they competed properly, abiding by the rules, they could win a prize
1 Co 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

IN THIS CONTEXT

VI) The **bema seat** is the place where every work comes into judgment
Mt 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then **He will reward** each person according to what he has done.
Eph. 6:8 you know that **the Lord will reward** everyone for whatever good he does

VII) This Bema seat judgment will occur after the rapture
We have glorified bodies, are with the Lord, and come before the Bema seat
Rev 19:8 When Jesus returns with His bride, she is already wearing her fine linen

AGAIN

VIII) The Bema seat is the place of reward, not of eternal judgment (White throne)
The rewards are mentioned in Scripture but not given in detail
There are crowns: The Incorruptible crown (permanent) 1 Co 9:25, The crown of rejoicing (witnessing crown—Phil 4:1), Crown of Life (Jas 1:12) for enduring trials, crown of righteousness (2 Ti 4:8—faithfully serving as we waited for Him to return), and the crown of glory (1 Pe 5:4—given to faithful pastors)